



ZFW

ocket No.: **UMBC-0015**

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Confirmation No.: **6579**

**Weidong ZHU, Chun-Nam WONG,
Guangyao XU, Nengan ZHENG and
Benjamin Haynes EMORY**

Group Art Unit: **2655**

Serial No.: **10/849,571**

Examiner:

Filed: **May 20, 2004**

Customer No.: **34610**

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETECTING STRUCTURAL DAMAGE**

REPLY TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed on March 20, 2006 Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-10, 15-31 and 36-46) with traverse for further prosecution on the merits.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or

Serial No. **10/849,571**

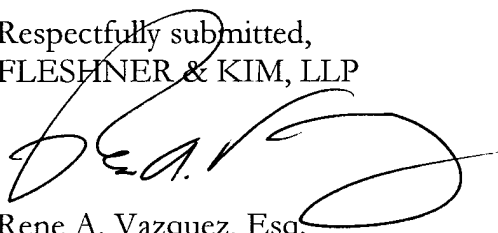
Docket No. **UMBC-0015**

independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Rene A. Vazquez, Esq.
Registration No. 38,647

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703-766-3701 RAV:knv
Date: MARCH 27, 2006

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610